

Dear Mr. Lambert:

I am writing to inform you that FTA is withdrawing the Houston University Corridor LRT New Starts project from the Capital Investment Grant program due to inactivity and lack of demonstrated progress on the project's design and local financial commitment over the last several years. This withdrawal is being done in accordance with the procedures outlined in FTA's *Final Interim Policy Guidance for the Capital Investment Grant Program* published in August 2015. METRO staff confirmed during the Project Management Oversight meeting held with FTA in February 2016 that no activity has recently taken place on the University Corridor project. FTA was last provided information to evaluate and rate the project according to the New Starts criteria in 2010.

As outlined in the *Final Interim Policy Guidance*, METRO may apply for re-entry into the Engineering phase of the New Starts program after providing evidence to FTA that the necessary funding commitments have been obtained and that design on the University Corridor project is advancing. To be re-approved into the Engineering phase, METRO would need to first perform a NEPA re-evaluation since the Record of Decision was issued in July 2010, and then prepare and submit the information necessary for FTA to evaluate and rate the project. At least a medium overall rating is required to be re-approved into the program. Any work performed by METRO after being withdrawn from the program and before being approved for re-entry is not eligible under pre-award authority for future reimbursement should a Full Funding Grant Agreement ultimately be awarded by FTA.

Sincerely,

Lucy Garliauskas  
Associate Administrator  
Planning and Environment  
Federal Transit Administration